

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00

/100 W

-----075884 041452Z /46

R 040310Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8353

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 5080

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: XC, CE, ECIN, PDEV

SUBJECT: SRI LANKA INTEREST IN ASEAN MEMBERSHIP

REF: COLOMBO 2652 (010931 AUG 77)

1. THERE HAS BEEN MODERATE PRESS COVERAGE IN KUALA LUMPUR OF SRI LANKA'S INTEREST IN JOINING ASEA, ALTHOUGH ALL COMMENTARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS TREATED THE ISSUE EITHER NON-COMMITTALLY OR, IF FAVORABLY, AS IF ANY FIRM DECISIONS FAR IN THE FUTURE. WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION THAT CONSIDERATION OF SRI LANKAN MEMBERSHIP WILL BE ON THE SUMMIT AGENDA.

2. ON SRI LANKA PREMIER JAYEWARDENE'S STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING A SPECIAL ENVOY TO OBSERVE THE SUMMIT, MALAYSIAN

FOREIGN MINISTER RITHAUDDEEN SAID, ACCORDING TO THE AUGUST 2 NEW STRAITS TIMES, "ASEAN WAS NEVER ANTAGONISTIC TO ANY COUNTRY, ORGANIZATION OR GROUPING. WE LIKE TO BE FRIENDS WITH ALL." HE REPORTEDLY FURTHER SAID THAT MALAYSIA, AS HOST, HAD NOT EXTENDED INVITATIONS TO ANY COUNTRY TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT, BUT HAD ONLY INVITED THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA, JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND TO "BE HERE FOR A DIALOGUE AND NOT TO ATTEND THE SUMMIT." THE AUGUST 1 BUSINESS TIMES CARRIED A WIRE SERVICE REPORT OUT OF COLOMBO WHICH QUOTED A "SENIOR DIPLOMAT FROM THE MALAYSIAN HIGH COMMISSION" ON THE PROSPECTS OF SRI LANKA FOREIGN MINISTER ABDUL C. S. HAMEED ATTENDING THE SUMMIT: "THERE IS CERTAIN PROTOCOL TO BE FOLLOWED BEFORE A VISIT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER," I.E., IMPLICITLY SAYING THE VISIT IS NOT LIKELY.

3. SRI LANKA HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER TOLD US HIGH COMMISSION PERSONNEL ARE BEMUSED BY SPECULATION ON SUBJECT AND TELEPHONED COLOMBO EVENING AUG 2 FOR GUIDANCE.THEY WERE TOLD A STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED BY FOREIGN OFFICE "IN A FEW DAYS" ON THIS. OUR CONTACT SAID HE UNDERSTANDS STORY GREW OUT OF MISQUOTE BY JAPANESE NEWSMAN OF REMARKS BY NEW PM IN AN INTERVIEW. HE THEREFORE DOUBTS HIS GOVERNMENT IS GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO PURSUING ASEAN MEMBERSHIP, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF SOME ENTHUSIASTIC UNP SUPPORTERS ADVOCATING THIS AS PART OF UNP GOVERNMENTS FOREIGN POLICY RE-ORIENTATION.
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MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUALA05080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770279-0869
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770897/aaaadress.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: dca8fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 COLOMBO 2652
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1710905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SRI LANKA INTEREST IN ASEAN MEMBERSHIP
TAGS: ECIN, PDEV, XC, CE, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dca8fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009